

## Fast Facts

### Colorado's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

- In 2004, 151 employers will be recognized on the first annual list of Colorado's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>.
- The nearly 90,000 commuters covered by the 2004 Colorado's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> list will help reduce 63,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, a reduction equivalent to planting more than 9 million trees each year.
- Colorado is also home to four Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts—the City of Aspen, Downtown Boulder, FlatIron Shopping District, and the Stapleton Area. Each District has been recognized by EPA for their outstanding, community-wide commitment to "green" transportation.

### Commuting Facts

- The table below highlights the costs of congestion and gallons of wasted fuel in several of Colorado's metropolitan areas. (*2003 Urban Mobility Study. Texas Transportation Institute*)

Metro Region	Cost of Traffic Congestion	Congestion Cost per Person	Gallons of Wasted Fuel
Denver	\$1.4 billion	\$698	56 million
Boulder	\$11 million	\$97	N/A
Colorado Springs	\$114 million	\$243	19 million

#### Denver

- The Denver metro region has the tenth longest rush hour delay in the country—with the average commuter stuck in traffic 62 hours each year. (*2003 Urban Mobility Study. Texas Transportation Institute*)
- On an average workday, over 1 million people commute to work in the Denver metro region. (*Denver Regional Council of Governments*)
- In Denver, 76% of commuters drive to work alone. (*2000 Census*)

#### Boulder

- Eighty thousand vehicles travel in and out of Boulder each day. (*Transportation Resource Center*)
- The city of Boulder offers over 350 miles of dedicated bike facilities. This includes on-street, contra-flow, designated routes, paved shoulders, multi-use, and soft surface. (*City of Boulder*)

#### Aspen

- Commuters in Aspen spend an average of \$7,000 or 13% of annual household income to get to work. (*Healthy Mountain Communities Study*)
- In the peak winter season, an average of 23,000 vehicles come into Aspen each day. Even with this influx of tourists, the city's numerous transportation options have kept local traffic volume from increasing since 1993. (*City of Aspen*)

### Colorado's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition

Denver Regional Council of Governments • Colorado Department of Transportation  
 Colorado Human Resource Association • Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce •  
 Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc • Regional Air Quality Council • Regional Transportation District  
 • Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation •  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





Colorado Human Resource Association



DENVER  
METRO  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE



DOWNTOWN DENVER  
PARTNERSHIP, INC.



REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL



Rocky Mountain Chapter of the  
Association for Commuter Transportation



### North Front Range

- According to a recent economic development study in the North Front Range, transportation was listed as one of the top five barriers to recruiting employers to the area. (*North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization*)

### Health Facts

- Research conducted in 1999 by the Centers for Disease Control found that “obesity and overweight are linked to the nation’s number one killer—heart disease—as well as diabetes and other chronic conditions.” The report also states that one reason for Americans’ sedentary lifestyle is that “walking and cycling have been replaced by automobile travel for all but the shortest distances.” (*JAMA, October 27, 1999*)
- Walking to work gives you a 20 percent less chance of getting breast cancer, a 30 percent less chance of getting heart disease, a 50 percent less chance of diabetes, and would help you live longer and healthier into old age. (*Nurse’s Health Study, Archives of Internal Medicine; New England Journal of Medicine, October 1999*)

### Air Quality Facts

- In 2001, the Denver metro region became the first major metropolitan city in the nation to reach attainment for all six National Ambient Air Quality Standards after previously violating five of the six standards. (*U.S. EPA*)
- The Denver region exceeded the standard during the summer of 2003, which now puts the region at risk of a potential nonattainment designation for ozone. (*Regional Air Quality Council*)
- Over the past 30 years, air quality in the Denver region has improved dramatically with regard to Carbon Monoxide levels. However, the number of vehicle miles traveled is increasing at an alarming rate. New transportation methods and lifestyle changes may be necessary to preserve the progress made in improving Denver’s air. (*U.S. EPA, Region 8*)

### National Commuting Facts

- In 2001, the average annual delay for commuters in 75 urban areas was 51 hours. The total cost of congestion came to \$69.5 billion, which includes wasted time and fuel. (*2003 Urban Mobility Study. Texas Transportation Institute*)
- Nearly 50 percent of workers describe their commutes as unsatisfying or stressful, and 36 percent say they would be willing to take a 10 percent pay cut or more for a shorter commute. (*HR Magazine Survey, Oct. 2001*)
- Employees with commuter benefits are eight times more likely to use transit than those who don’t have them. (*2001 Xylo survey*)

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